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LADY WITCHBLADE DEATH

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"OKAY, HERE'S MY TAKE.

"THREE GIRLS, OF THE BRIDGE AND TUNNEL VARIETY, COME TO THE CITY LOOKING FOR EXCITEMENT.

"THEY MEET THREE GUYS PROBABLY LATE TEENS OR EARLY TWENTIES, PROBABLY GOOD LOOKING...

"DEFINITELY EXCITING.

"IT'S GETTING LATE, LAST TRAIN TO MORGANVILLE LEAVES IN 20 MINUTES BUT THE GUYS HAVE A BETTER IDEA.

"THERE'S THIS PARTY PAD LIKE THREE, FOUR BLOCKS FROM WHERE THEY ARE

"THE GIRLS WORK OUT A STORY FOR THE FOLKS AND SAY THEY'RE IN

"BUILDING USUALLY HAS A DOORMAN, APPARENTLY HE'S ELSEWHERE WHEN THIS GROUP WALKS THROUGH.

501

"THE DOOR'S UNLOCKED, THE FRIDGE'S FULL OF BEER."





"THE FIRST GIRL'S DEAD
BEFORE HER FRIEND'S
EVEN NOTICE"



"THEY THINK
IT'S A JOKE"



"THEN THEY PRAY
IT'S A JOKE"

"AND THEY REALIZE SOMETIMES
EXCITEMENT ISN'T ALL IT'S
CRACKED UP TO BE."

"...AND SOMETIMES IT IS."

"THEN THEY THINK
ABOUT THEIR MAMAS
AND DADS AND
BOYFRIENDS AND
CHOCOLATE CHIP
ICE CREAM"

"...AND THEN
NOTHING AT ALL."



"BUT OF COURSE, OUR BOYS
DON'T STOP THERE..."

"FOR THE NEXT HOUR OR SO, OUR
HIP GOOD-LOOKING BOYS
PROCEED TO DO THIS WONDERFUL
PAINT JOB ON THE WALLS."

AND
THROUGH IT ALL
THE NEIGHBORS
DON'T HEAR A
THING.

OR MAYBE
THEY DO.

MAKES SENSE

DARKNESS
DESTROYERS

OPEN!
OPEN!



BECAUSE AFTER SPENDING
SOME TIME IN HOMICIDE
I'VE REALIZED HUMANITY
PRETTY MUCH IS MADE
UP OF PREDATORS. THEIR
VICTIMS...

...AND FOLKS WHO
DON'T GIVE A DAMN.

OUR JOB IS TO GET THE PREDATORS,
PREFERABLY BEFORE THEY CAN DO
SOMETHING LIKE THIS AGAIN.

ANY
THOUGHTS?

YEAH, I THINK
THESE GUYS ARE
WHACKED.

THANKS,
JAKE.

NO!

JESUS.
NO!!!

SIR, I'M
SORRY. DID
YOU KNOW
THE—?

IT'S GONNA
TAKE HOURS
TO CLEAN THIS
PLACE UP!

MISTER
SHAW'LL KILL
ME IF HE SEES
THIS!

WOW,
GUY'S A REAL
SAMARITAN.

DADDY
THERESA...

THIS IS A CRIME
SCENE SIR. IT WILL
REMAIN UNTOUCHED
UNTIL THE NYPD
SAYS SO.

IF MISTER
SHAW HAS ANY
QUESTIONS OR
COMMENTS, HE
CAN CALL—
WHO—?

HEY! WAIT!
HOLD IT!

OFFICER,
WHERE'D HE
GO?

WHO,
MA'AM?

THAT TALL
GUY—IN THE
TRENCHCOAT—
JUST NOW!!!

UHH,
NORBODY PASSED
ME, MA'AM.
SORRY.

ME TOO.



SOON

HMM, OKAY. IT LOOKS LIKE THAT SYMBOL WITH ALL THE ARROWS, THAT WAS ON THE WALL, HAS QUITE THE HISTORY.

IN GREEK TIMES, IT WAS SAID TO REPRESENT ERISS, A GODDESS KNOWN AS "THE FORCE THAT MAKES CHANGE..."

REALLY.

IN THE MIDDLE AGES, IT REPRESENTED CHAOS MAGIC. WORSHIPPERS BELIEVED THEY COULD COMMUNICATE WITH THE DENIZENS OF HELL SOMEHOW.

3-2-1...
KOBE FROM THE CORNER...

DAMN.

DAMN!

CHECK OUT THE SIDE OF THE BASKET, JAKE.

YOU THINK IT WORKS FOR LAKER FANS?

SMASH

KNICKS

NOW LET'S GET TO WORK BEFORE OUR PERPS DO...

SORRY, PEZZIN, BUT YOU'RE TOO LATE FOR THAT...

DAMN...

NOTHING.

OH, GOD...

ARE YOU SURE?

I'M SORRY, I JUST...I MUST'VE GONE TO THE CAN OR SOMETHIN'

WHEN THE GUYS WERE COMING IN AND GOING OUT? YOU SHOULD GET THAT CHECKED! AND WHAT ABOUT THE NEIGHBORS? NOBODY CALLED DOWN TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE NOISE? IN THIS VACANT APARTMENT?

I TOLD YOU NO, WHATTAYA WANT FROM ME?

I WANT TO KNOW HOW ALL THESE GIRLS COULD BE MURDERED AND NOBODY...



I WANT TO KNOW HOW ALL THESE GIRLS COULD BE MURDERED AND NOBODY...



OKAY, JAKE, MR. CARLTON, HERE ISN'T A SUSPECT.

LET'S CANVAS THE NEIGHBORS AGAIN.

SEE IF WE CAN DRUM UP ANY...



...LEADS...

DID YOU SEE THAT GUY?



WHO?

LISTEN, JAKE, I GOTTA CHECK SOMETHING OUT.

YOU OKAY, SARA?



YEAH, JUST START WITHOUT ME.

EXCUSE ME?

HEY—WAIT UP!! POLICE!!!

OKAY
BUDDY, YOU'RE
NOT GETTING OUT
OF MY SIGHT
THIS TIME.



HE'S OBVIOUSLY IN NO RUSH TO GET AWAY RIGHT NOW.

WHAT'S HIS DEAL?

OH, MY GOD!!!

IT'S LIKE HE'S...

HEY! LOOKOUT FOR—

—THAT CAB!

WHAT AM I GETTING INTO NOW...?

GET OUTTA THE STREET YA PSYCHO!!!

A GHOST.



NOW THAT'S
AN INTERESTING
POSSIBILITY

I COULD
JUST BE GOING
INSANE!

THAT WOULD EXPLAIN
WHY I SPEND SO MUCH
TIME TALKING TO MYSELF

HMM.
THIS IS
WEIRD

AND GETTING
WEIRDER BY
THE SECOND.

WHAT HAVE
YOU DISCOVERED,
VIRGIL?

JUS' LIKE THE
LAST ONE, LADY D.
THREE DEAD GIRLS, THOSE
SYMBOLS AND WORDS
WRITTEN ON THE WALLS IN
BLOOD, AND THAT LADY
DETECTIVE...

...THE ONE
WHO CAN
SEE ME.

SHE KNOWS
THERE'S SOMETHIN'
WEIRD ABOUT THIS
CASE, TOO. THINKS
I'M INVOLVED.

AIN'T THAT
RIGHT— SARA,
IS IT?

YEAH, THAT'S
RIGHT— VIRGIL,
IS IT?

NOW LET'S ALL JUST HAVE A LITTLE TALK ABOUT—

DEATH...

HEY!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

WHRRSHH

WHOA! SHOULDN'T WE BE ASKIN' YOU THAT? GET OUTTA ME!!

I SUGGEST YOU RETRACT YOUR UNEARTHLY WEAPON, MORTAL...

DEATH... BLADE...

SLURGHHHH

I SHALL DO IT FOR YOU.

LOOK, I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU.

YOUR ACTIONS SUGGEST OTHERWISE!

WHOOSHHH

KRAK
SHHH

THIS IS NOT WHAT I WANT TO BE DOING RIGHT NOW.

DEATHBLADE...

I WISH I KNEW WHAT IT WAS TALKING ABOUT AT LEAST SOME OF THE TIME.

ENOUGH! YOU'RE GONNA GET ME KILLED!

STOP IT, WITCHBLADE!



LADY DEATH AND HER PARTNER, CASPER, I DEFINITELY HAVE MORE QUESTIONS FOR THOSE TWO—LIKE WHY THE SYMBOL ON HER SWORD MATCHES THE ONES ON THE WALLS OF THE MURDER SCENES...I HAVE AN ISSUE WITH SWORDS.

...OKAY...MMAAHHH...MMMAHHH...OH THAT'S TOO BAD...THAT'S REALLY TOO BAD!

NOW THANKS TO SOME EXCELLENT DETECTIVE WORK BY JAKE OUR INVESTIGATION HAS LED US TO QUENTIN SHAW, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF SHAW HOLDINGS, A POSITION HE INHERITED FROM HIS FATHER, WHO INHERITED IT FROM HIS FATHER, AND THE OWNER OF BOTH BUILDINGS WHERE THE MURDERS TOOK PLACE.

THAT AND YOUR COFFEE MUG. I'M DETECTIVE PEZZINI AND THIS IS DETECTIVE MCCARTHY. WE NEED TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS.

ABOUT THE MURDERS IN MY BUILDINGS, I IMAGINE I'M ALREADY AWARE THAT THE NYPD IS STAKING OUT MY BUILDINGS IN HOPE OF FINDING THE PERPETRATORS—AND I'M SURE THAT WILL DO WONDERS FOR MY PROPERTY VALUE ANYTHING ELSE?

...YES...YES, BUT DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE PROBLEM IS? HERE'S THE PROBLEM.

THE PROBLEM IS, YOU'RE NOT HERE IN FRONT OF ME, SO I COULD PUT MY FIST DOWN YOUR THROAT AND TEAR YOUR BALLS OFF!

TWICE VOTED WORLD'S MOST ELIGIBLE BILLIONAIRE BACHELOR. I HAVE AN ISSUE WITH BILLIONAIRE BACHELORS TOO.

I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT DENNIS, YOU'RE FIRED. YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR BALLS WITH MY SECRETARY.



BEEEP! BEEEP!

MAYBE YOU SHOULD ANSWER YOUR CELL PHONE, DETECTIVE...

DO YOU
KNOW WHAT
THIS IS?

IT'S CALLED
A MURDER
HAPPEN.

IT'S GOT
BLOOD FROM ALL
SIX VICTIMS ON IT
AND YOUR
FINGERPRINTS,
CARSON.

AND WHEN
YOU WERE PICKED
UP TODAY YOU WERE
CARRYING IT INSIDE
YOUR JACKET!

DIDN'T YOU
EVEN THINK OF
WASHING IT?

NOPE.

SO YOU
DON'T DENY
THAT YOU'RE
THE KILLER?

NOPE.
THINK
WHY?

Y'EVER KILL
ANYONE? IT'S
PRETTY COOL.

JESUS,
SARA...

POOR JAKE. SOMETIMES
I FORGET THAT HE'S STILL
PRETTY RAW. YOU EXPECT
THE PERPS TO DENY THEIR
GUILT— OR AT LEAST BE A
TINY BIT REMORSEFUL IF
THEY ADMIT IT. NOT...THIS.

I SEE IT AS
AFTERLIFE
INSURANCE!

MAKES YA
SICK, DON'T
IT?

WHEN I WAS
ON THE JOB AND
SAW CRAP LIKE THIS
MADE ME WANNA
SHOOT THE
PARENTS!

AMEN...



NO, THE FEELING HAS RETURNED. THE INFERNAL INCANTATION HAS BEGIN ANEW.





POLICE!!!

HOLD IT
RIGHT
THERE!

OH, MY
GOD! WHAT
DID YOU
DO?

OH, NO.
I STILL FEEL IT;
THE EMANATIONS
ARE GROWING
STRONGER

WHAT
HAVE THEY
DONE?

DROP THE
WEAPON AND GET
ON THE FLOOR.
NOW!

STOP OR
WE'LL SHOOT!

WHOOOSH
BAM
BAM
BAM
SPLAK
SPLAK

WHAT THE
HELL IS GOING
ON?

YOU SEE
HER DOWN
THERE? SHE
DEAD?

NO, SHE
DISAPPEARED.
JESUS.

I WAS HOPIN'
SHE'D BE BACK
BY NOW.

I SHOULDN'A
LEFT HER. THESE
KILLINGS HAVE HER,
ALL FREAKED OUT.
THERE'S NO TELLIN'
WHERE SHE
WENT.

BUT I GUESS A
FREAKY DRESSED
CHICK WITH A BIG
SWORD RUNNING
AROUND IS **BOUND**
TO GET NOTICED.

TELL ME
ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S HER
DEAL, VIRGIL? I
CAN'T HONESTLY SAY
SHE'S OFF MY LIST
OF SUSPECTS...

AND I GOTTA
FIGURE THAT
WHEREVER SHE IS,
SHE COULD USE
OUR HELP.

BUT NOW
THAT I THINK
ABOUT IT, IT'S NOT
GOING TO BE SO
HARD TO FIND
HER.

SHE'S ALL RIGHT,
SARA. JUST A BIT
CONFUSED S'ALL. DON'T
GET ME WRONG -- SINCE I
MET HER I'VE SEEN A LOT
OF WEIRD SHIT COME
OUR WAY, BUT SHE'S
STRAIGHT UP.

NO...

YOU THINK
EVERYONE IS
SEEING THIS.

ONLY IF THEY
HAVE **THAT**
SHOWING THEM
THE WAY...



STOP! YOU MONSTER!!!
STOP THIS!

I CONJURE
THEE HERE,
BEFORE ME, IN
VISIBLE SHADOW! I
CALL TO THEE!

ILLUMINATORS
OF DARKNESS,
DESTROYERS OF
LIGHT, I CALL TO
THEE!

BY THE NAME
WHICH I WAS
GIVEN, I ASK THY
GATE TO OPEN!

OPEN
TO ME!

OPEN
TO ME.

MAMAMMA,
DO YOU FEEL
THAT?

THAT IS
REAL POWER.

LOOKS MORE
TIME LIKE YOU'RE
REAL CRAZY!

I GOTTA AGREE
WITH THE GHOST, HERE.
QUENTIN, AND I CAN'T
EVEN SAY I'M SURPRISED
THAT YOU'RE BEHIND
ALL THIS.

IT SEEMS EVERY
RICH AND POWERFUL
BUSINESSMAN IN NEW
YORK HAS SOME DEEP DARK
SECRET THAT INSPIRES HIM TO
PLAY DRESS-UP AND SAY
STUPID SHIT BEHIND CLOSED
DOORS, AND THAT, MY
FRIEND, MAKES YOU
CRAZY.

YOU OKAY,
LADY D?

I BELIEVE
SO, VIRGIL

CRAZY? CRAZY
ENOUGH TO TAKE EVERY
BEATING AND BURNING
AND HUMILIATION HE GAVE
ME AND USE THEM ALL!!!
THANKS TO MY FATHER'S
ENVIOUS PARENTING SKILLS, I'M
ONE OF THE RICHEST AND
MOST POWERFUL MEN IN
THE WORLD!

CRAZY
ENOUGH TO
REALIZE IF I WAS
DESTINED TO GO TO
HELL, I'D BETTER
CUSHION THE
FALL.

CRAZY
ENOUGH TO
KNOW I NEED
AFTERLIFE
INSURANCE.



THAT'S
WHAT THAT
KILLER
SAID!

SO YOU
FOUND KIDS WHO
WERE PATHETIC AND
HOPELESS JUST LIKE
YOU WERE.

YOU PREYED ON THAT
AND CONVINCED THEM THEIR
LIVES WERE ALREADY SPENT,
SOLD THEM A BILL OF GOODS
ABOUT AFTERLIFE
INSURANCE
AND TALKED THEM INTO
MURDERING FOR YOU.

IM SORRY, BUT
JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE
A GOOD SALESMAN
DON'T MEAN YOU'RE
NOT CRAZY!

THAT'S
WHAT I'M
SAYIN'!



BE QUIET,
ALL OF YOU!
YOU'LL RUIN THE
MOMENT.

WHAT MOMENT?
THE MOMENT I
ARREST YOU?

RRRUUMMMBBBULLLEEE

NO...

WHO HAS
SUMMONED
ME?

...THIS
MOMENT.

WAS IT
YOU?

DO YOU WISH
TO BE MY LIEGE
AGAIN?

SRRRSHHH











I DON'T TELL HER
THE WORST THAT
COULD HAPPEN.

LUCKILY I
DON'T HAVE TO.





FOR A MOMENT
I WONDER IF I'LL
SURVIVE THE FALL

THE WITCHBLADE
REMINDS ME THAT WAS
A STUPID QUESTION

SKRAKK

TH-DAY

AS LONG AS IT'S
WITH ME, A 40-STORY
DROP IS NOTHING.

I LIKE THAT
ABOUT THE
WITCHBLADE.

HEY, PEZ...

